

Case of the Month

March 2007

History and Signalment: An 8-month old Bichon Frise presented for an evaluation of her malocclusion. She had her deciduous mandibular incisors and canine teeth extracted when she was 16 weeks old due to a similar problem.

Physical Exam/Diagnosis: The mandible was shorter than normal. This caused the mandibular canine teeth to hit on the palatal surface of the maxillary canine teeth. The mandibular incisors were traumatizing the palatal mucosa. The diagnosis was a Class II malocclusion with base narrow mandibular canine teeth



Photo of base narrow right canine tooth.



Photo of base narrow left canine tooth.



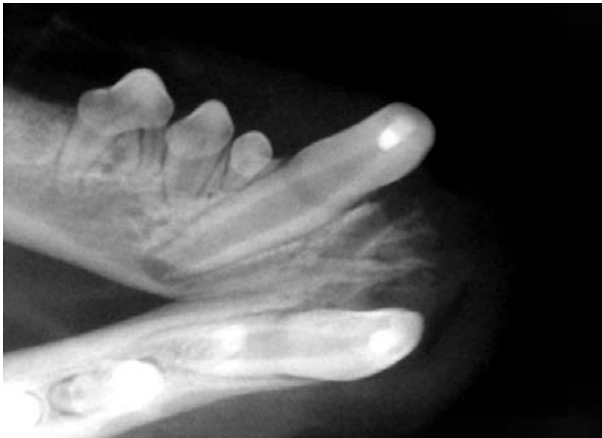
Photo showing class II malocclusion.



Photo showing extracted incisors and shortened canine tooth.



Photo showing extracted incisors and shortened canine tooth.



Radiograph showing filling material in right canine tooth.



Radiograph showing filling material in left canine tooth.

Treatment: A vital pulpotomy procedure was performed on the mandibular canine teeth after reducing the height of the crowns. The mandibular incisors were also extracted. Performing these procedures relieved the traumatic occlusion giving the dog a more comfortable bite. If left untreated, the traumatic contact could have caused painful palatal ulcers, oronasal fistula formation and periodontal disease. If this problem would have been discovered and treated at an early enough age(6-8 weeks), the mandible may have grown to a normal length

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